

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing an oriented sintered ceramic product, which comprises:

dispersing a powder selected from the group consisting of alumina powder, titanium dioxide powder, aluminum nitride powder, tetragonal zirconia powder, zinc oxide powder, tin oxide powder, hydroxyapatite powder, and a composite mixture containing them into a solvent to prepare a slurry, wherein

(A) the solid content of the slurry is 20 vol % or less and an average particle size of the powder or the composite mixture is 0.04 μm or less,

(B) the solid content of the slurry is larger than 20 vol % and 40 vol % or less and an average particle size of the powder or the composite mixture is larger than 0.04 μm and 0.4 μm or less, ~~or~~ and

(C) the solid content of the slurry is larger than 40 vol % and 50 vol % or less and an average particle size of the powder or the composite mixture is larger than 0.4 μm and less than 1 μm ;

solidifying to mold the slurry with the powder oriented through a method of colloid process in a magnetic field of 1T or more; and

sintering the molded slurry to produce an oriented sintered ceramic product.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Withdrawn) An oriented sintered ceramic product obtained by the manufacturing method as defined in claim 1.

5. (Withdrawn) An oriented sintered alumina ceramic product in which (006) diffraction intensity is 1.2 times or more as (110) diffraction intensity in accordance with X-ray diffractometry at a surface on which the C plane of alumina crystal is oriented, the average crystal grain size is 20 μm or less at the surface parallel with the surface on which the C plane is oriented, or the average crystal grain size is 20 μm or more and an aspect ratio of the crystal

grain size is 0.4 or greater and 1 or less at a surface vertical perpendicular to the surface on which the C plane is oriented.

6. (Withdrawn) An oriented sintered titanium dioxide ceramic product which is a crystal oriented sintered titanium dioxide product.

7. (Withdrawn) An oriented sintered titanium dioxide ceramic product as defined in claim 6, which is a crystal oriented sintered rutile structure titanium dioxide product in which (002) diffraction intensity is greater than (110) diffraction intensity in accordance with X-ray diffractometry.

8. (Withdrawn) An oriented sintered tetragonal zirconia ceramic product which is a crystal oriented sintered tetragonal zirconia product.

9. (Withdrawn) A crystal oriented sintered tetragonal zirconia ceramic product as defined in claim 8 wherein (002) diffraction intensity is greater than (200) diffraction intensity in accordance with X-ray diffractometry.

10. (Withdrawn) An oriented sintered ceramic product obtained by the manufacturing method as defined in claim 2.

11. (Withdrawn) An oriented sintered ceramic product obtained by the manufacturing method as defined in claim 3.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing an oriented sintered ceramic product as defined in claim 1, wherein the powder has an average particle size of 0.69 μm or less.

14. (Cancelled)